stimulating milk production in the country by financing producers co-operative organisation to help provide necessary infrastructure for procurement, processing and marketing of milk.

(d) An Oil Seeds Project "Restructuring of Edible Oil and Oilseeds Production and Marketing" is being implemented with the aid of funds generated from the sale of git oil, received through Cooperative League of USA (CLUSA) and Co-operative Union of CANADA (CUC). Import of sugar is resorted to maintain the availability of sugar in domestic market at desired level and to ensure its supply to the consumers at reasonable prices. The sugar imports are on decline as indigenous production is showing an increasing trend.

Reduction in import duty on scrap

2072. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether ministeel plant owners have requested Government to further reduce the import duty on scrap in addition to 5 per cent already done, as the reduction is inadequate; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Steel Furnace Association of India the Association representing mini steel plants, has made such a request.

(b) The impact of the recent reduction of custom duty on the economic of mini steel plants is being studied.

Stepping-up of Research and Development in Biofertilisers

2073. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to step up Research and Development in biofertilisers, including Biological Nitrogen Fixation, as substitutes for chemical fertilisers;

(b) whether Government also propose to improve and extend biogas technology and use animal dung for biogas; and

(c) whether inexpensive renewable sources like alcohol can be used in place of petrol?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir, as a supplementary source for chemical fertiliser.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Export of Garlic

2074. SHRI K. GOPALAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what had been the export figures of garlic during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) what had been the production of garlic during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether there has been any increase in the domestic price of garlic during this period, if so, the detais thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to ban the export of garlic in order to stabilise the domestic price at 1983-84 level, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION